

## Coalition crisis does not threaten talks — Beilin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Middle East peace talks are not threatened by a crisis facing the government of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Israel radio Saturday. "The peace process is not threatened. It will resume as planned next week whatever the outcome of the crisis," he said. Mr. Rabin warned on Thursday that a long-running battle between coalition partners was threatening to bring down the government and put an end to the peace process. The row centres around Education Minister Shulamit Aloni of the left-wing Meretz Party, whose strident secularism has provoked a confrontation with the Shas orthodox religious party. Shas has threatened to quit the government unless Mr. Rabin fires Mrs. Aloni. Mr. Rabin's coalition stands or falls on the six Shas deputies in the 120-seat parliament. Meretz has 12 and Labour 44. Mr. Rabin meanwhile cancelled a trip to Strasbourg, France, planned for Monday to deal with the crisis. Israeli government sources predict there will be a major reshuffle, with Mr. Rabin moving Mrs. Aloni to another ministerial post to placate Shas. Mrs. Aloni met with Mr. Rabin on Thursday and is due to see him again Sunday.

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## Pakistan expels 230 Egyptian militants

CAIRO (AFP) — Pakistan has deported to Sudan 230 Egyptian Muslim militants who are wanted in Egypt in connection with a wave of fundamentalist unrest. A Foreign Ministry official said Saturday. Egypt initiated discussions with Pakistan several weeks ago for the repatriation of these militants — Afghan war veterans who settled in Peshawar after the fall of the communist regime in Kabul. An Egyptian security source last week charged that Afghan veterans, estimated officially at 1,500, finance and set up terrorist operations carried out by fundamentalists in Egypt to destabilise the government. Some 140 people have been killed in fundamentalist violence since March 1992, including three foreign tourists. Pakistan's alleged deportation of 230 militants has angered the Egyptian authorities. "Pakistan should have handed over these terrorists to Egypt because their presence at the Egyptian-Sudanese border is a time-bomb," the official who declined to be identified told AFP. "Pakistan opted for a compromise" by expelling them to Sudan rather than to Egypt, he said. Saudi businessman Osama Ben Laden, according to the official, acted as a middle man between Pakistan, Sudan and the militants to finance their trip and accommodations in Sudan.

## Assad, McGovern review peace process

DAMASCUS (AP) — Former U.S. presidential candidate George McGovern discussed the American-sponsored Middle East peace process with President Hafez Al Assad on Saturday. Mr. McGovern, who heads the non-profit Middle East Policy Council, arrived Friday from Amman on the second leg of a Middle East tour that will also take him to Israel, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Morocco.

## Five killed in Yemen clashes

SANAA (AFP) — Five people, including two soldiers and a police officer, were killed in clashes this week in Yemen, officials reported Saturday. A colonel and an enlisted man were killed Friday in a gunbattle with armed men who forced their way through an army checkpoint in the eastern province of Hadramaut, the official SABA news agency said. It said the assailants were arrested and their weapons seized. A spokesman for the Interior Ministry reported that a police officer and two car thieves were killed Wednesday in two separate incidents north of Sanaa. Three other policemen were also wounded.

## Legal elected Somaliland president

DJIBOUTI (AFP) — Mohammad Ibrahim Egal, prime minister of Somaliland from 1967 to 1969, was elected last Wednesday president of Somaliland by a council of elders, an informed source said Saturday. Somaliland covers the north western section of Somalia and declared itself independent following the fall of Somali dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991. It is understood Mr. Egal's predecessor Abdourahmane Ahmad Ali lost the post for failing to achieve recognition for Somaliland from the international community.

## Iraq to free Kuwaiti family

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has agreed to free a Kuwaiti family of six Sunday after holding them 31 days for crossing the border illegally, a member of the family said Saturday. Sa'ad Abdul Aziz, the eldest member of the family, told reporters Iraq had agreed to hand them over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to take them home. Officials at the Culture and Information Ministry told reporters the family were free. Mr. Abdul Aziz, 21, came down to the lobby of Baghdad's Al Rasheed hotel with his two sisters and three brothers to break the news to journalists. "Tomorrow they will hand us to ICRC," he said, adding that no ICRC official had contacted them during their detention.

## More than 200,000 in S. Arabia for Haj

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia said Saturday more than 200,000 people had arrived so far in the kingdom to perform the annual pilgrimage to Mecca due at the end of May. The Saudi Press Agency quoted immigration officials as saying 200,973 pilgrims have arrived by air, land and sea. Pilgrimage sites in Saudi Arabia normally host up to two million pilgrims during the Haj which lasts at least five days.

## Malaysia distances itself from lobby for Israel

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia said Saturday it would not get involved in discussions with Australia over that state's reported lobbying in South-East Asia to win wider international recognition for Israel. "Australia knows our position very clearly. I think it is the wrong country to approach," Kamil Jaafar, the top civil servant in the Malaysian Foreign Ministry, told reporters. Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Thursday that Canberra's move to win wider recognition for Israel in South-East Asia was in response to a request from Tel Aviv which was eager to improve its relations in Asia, especially with the Muslim countries with which it had little or no contact. The predominantly Muslim nations of Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh have refused to recognise Israel.

## Ashrawi says delegates studying Israeli draft

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi has said that Palestinians were displeased with an Israeli draft agreement on self-rule but were not rejecting it out of hand. She said on CNN Television that a statement by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Tunis rejecting the draft reflected the Palestinian negotiators' "extreme displeasure."

But Dr. Ashrawi declared: "The fact that there is some regression in terms of the positions that we had arrived at earlier does not mean that it is entirely useless or should be rejected out of hand."

Israel's consul general in New York, Colette Avital, said on the same programme: "One does not expect that a draft proposal should immediately be accepted lock, stock and barrel by the other party."

Israel presented the draft to the Palestinians Thursday at the end of the second week of a three-week round of Middle East peace talks in Washington.

Chief Palestinian peace delegate Faisal Husseini flew from Washington to Tunis late Friday to brief the PLO leadership on the latest developments at a meeting aimed at mapping out a response to the Israeli offer.

Dr. Ashrawi said the PLO was "expressing scepticism about the

fact that they thought we had achieved more progress in our negotiations."

"We told the Israeli delegation, and I would repeat it here, that we are taking the draft proposal very seriously. We have not responded to them officially yet," she said.

PLO spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo told Reuters in Tunis: "We totally reject such a project which gives only some municipal powers to the Palestinians to reduce the weight of occupation while legitimising it."

"Such a project again puts the peace negotiations on the road to impasse," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

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The Palestinian delegation was expected to accept or reject the plan when peace talks resume next week, he said.

## Islamic movement deputies assail Arafat for resuming peace talks

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood movement Saturday launched its strongest attack yet on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), accusing it of treason and rejecting the legitimacy of its representation of Palestinian people.

"The PLO has committed treason by going to the peace talks. All Arab regimes that sanctioned the participation in the talks have committed treason," Brotherhood Deputy Ziad Abu Ghannim told the Jordan Times at the end of the press conference.

"The PLO's legitimacy as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people was established by Arab summits. But let the PLO put this issue to the people and they will decide on that," Ibrahim Khrisat, spokesman of the Brotherhood bloc at the Lower House of Parliament, told a press conference.

"The (legitimacy) of representation comes from the will of the people and not from the decisions of summits," influential Brotherhood Deputy Hammam added.

"(The Palestinian) people have chosen the PLO" as their representative, he said.

Tension between the PLO and the Brotherhood heightened after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat accused the Brotherhood of interfering in internal Palestinian affairs when they sent him a letter urging the withdrawal from the peace talks with Israel.

In the letter, copies of which were sent to all Arab parties to the peace talks, the Brotherhood deputies asserted that participation in the peace talks contradicts the will of the Palestinian people which demands the liberation of all its occupied land.

The Brotherhood said the PLO broke its own word by agreeing to attend the ninth round of the peace talks, which started in Washington on April 28, before the repatriation of all Palestinians who were expelled by Israel to South Lebanon in December last year.

The Arab-Israeli peace talks came to a halt after Israel expelled the 417 Palestinians whom it accused of being activists of the Islamic resistance.

(Continued on page 5)

## Israel says Syria must prove peace commitment

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israel says Syria must take action to prove to both Syrians and Israelis that it has made an irrevocable decision to make peace with the Jewish state.

Israel's chief negotiator with Syria at Middle East peace talks in Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, told a meeting of Jewish Americans Friday this was one of three issues Syria must address before Israel would say how far it was willing to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

The other two were that Syria must further elaborate on the nature of peace it was willing to accept in return for withdrawal. Also it must explain whether its agreement to peace with Israel would be dependent on other Arabs reaching a settlement.

"Our position is that we have to say enough," Mr. Rabinovich said. "We will say no more and now it is your task to tell us that you are giving us full peace and to elaborate that full peace means diplomatic relations and normalisation."

He said that Syria must also confirm "this is a peace that will have its own life."

"Yes, we are negotiating a comprehensive settlement but we want to know from you, the Syrians, that when we make a deal. This deal will stand regardless of whether others make the same deal," Mr. Rabinovich declared.

Syria has not made clear whether the "full withdrawal" for which it will exchange "full peace" is from the Golan Heights.

But he argued that Mr. Assad

should "take a series of measures that will have resonance and will indicate to both the Syrian public and the Israeli public that Syria has made an irrevocable decision to cross the line and make peace."

Mr. Rabinovich said the Labour government elected in Israel in June last year broke new ground in the talks with Syria when it said for the first time it was ready for some sort of withdrawal on the Golan.

Syria responded at the latest round of talks in Washington that it would be ready for "full peace" in return for a full withdrawal. But it refused to elaborate on the nature of peace unless Israel committed itself to the full withdrawal.

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Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Yildirim Avci announced in the nationally televised vote.

(Continued on page 5)

Demirel fails to get presidency in first round

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey's presidential ballot will go to a second round after front-runner Suleyman Demirel failed Saturday to win the two-thirds majority required.

Prime Minister Demirel, tipped as the most likely candidate to replace Turgut Ozal who died of heart failure last month, won 234 votes from the 450-member Grand National Assembly.

Mr. Demirel, 68, received support from his conservative True Path Party (DYP) and the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP), the junior member of his two-party coalition.

"The vote reflected the tendency of the coalition government," Deputy Prime Minister Erdal Inonu, the leader of the SHP, told reporters after the vote count.

Mr. Demirel heads an 18-month-old DYP-SHP coalition in his seventh stint as prime minister.

A second vote will take place on May 12, when a two-thirds majority will again be required to elect the president.

Mr. Demirel is expected to be elected on third ballot, slated for May 16, when a simple majority of votes will be needed, departs from the ruling coalition said.

If the president cannot be elected on the fourth ballot, scheduled for May 20, parliament will be dissolved for general elections.

Only 422 deputies cast ballots,

Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Yildirim Avci announced in the nationally televised vote.

Effective April 15, 1992, the U.N. Security Council imposed a ban on air travel and arms sales to



RAIDS CONTINUE: Nigerian peace-keeping soldiers search for arms in a refugee camp in the Somali capital of Mogadishu (AFP photo)

## Iraq not to compensate Jordanians for losses in invalidated currency

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuter

AMMAN — Iraq told Jordan Saturday it would not compensate Jordanian businessmen and investors who might have lost millions of dollars after Baghdad withdrew old bank notes from circulation.

"The Iraqi authorities told us clearly today that they will not make any exceptions for anyone and change the withdrawn money with new notes for any affected party," a senior government official told Reuters.

The Palestinian delegation was expected to accept or reject the plan when peace talks resume next week, he said.

Jordanian businessmen and food suppliers — probably Iraq's main trading partners — had pinned high hopes that Jordan would be able to negotiate a settlement with Baghdad to help compensate them.

"They made it very clear that this also applied to Jordanian traders who were paid in the withdrawn currency in return for goods sent to Iraq," he said.

Iraq, battling to boost its ailing currency, Tuesday withdrew from circulation 25-dinar premium-priced banknotes printed in

## Brotherhood restates opposition to temporary legislation on elections

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood bloc at the Lower House of Parliament Saturday warned that changing the elections law through a temporary legislation would undermine confidence between the executive and legislative branches and would cast doubt on the credibility of the democratic process in Jordan.

The Muslim Brotherhood deputies are waiting for the government to announce the parliamentary elections on their date under the permanent law that should not be replaced by a temporary law," Brotherhood spokesman Ibrahim Khrisat told a press conference Saturday.

"We will consider the issuing of a temporary law contradictory to the will of the people. It would render false the democratic process," said Mr. Khrisat.

Mr. Khrisat said, however, that the Brotherhood will not boycott the elections should such a change be in the making, adding that the Islamic movement is prepared to deal with all its occupied land.

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## Israelis kill youth in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a 16-year-old Palestinian after a group of youths threw stones at their patrol in the occupied West Bank Saturday, military officials said.

The dead youth was named as Nazeem Al Gawad Halameh Sarmeh, from the West Bank village of Deir Dibwan, near the town of Ramallah.

The officials said the soldiers opened fire, fatally wounding Sarmeh, after the Palestinians ignored orders to stop throwing stones.

Sarmeh, was treated on the spot by an army medic but died from his wounds.

The army said its troops passing the village of Deir Dibwan, 14 kilometers north of Jerusalem, opened fire on a group of stone throwers who refused to halt.

Sarmeh was hit and died shortly later, the army said.

Arab reports said Sarmeh's body was brought to the hospital in Ramallah where his family was in a stand-off with troops, who refused to give up the body

## U.S. officials express optimism on Middle East peace talks

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The prospects for reaching a Middle East peace agreement have never been better than they are today, two State Department officials said Friday.

Ambassador Samuel Lewis, director of Policy and Planning at the State Department, and Dennis Ross, special adviser to Secretary of State Warren Christopher, discussed the U.S. role in the Middle East peace talks during sessions of the American Jewish Committee's 87th annual meeting.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, also discussed the current status of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Expressing optimism about the peace negotiations, Mr. Lewis said, "I don't think the prospects have ever been as good as they are today."

"We are not there yet...but we are well on the road to a real breakthrough this calendar year," he said. Commenting on the current round of negotiations in Washington, Mr. Lewis said there has been "considerable movement" on all tracks.

There are "plenty of enemies of peace" in the region "who are going to be trying to blow up this process with terror, misinformation, and political wiles," Mr. Lewis said. "But I think we are going to keep it on the rails," he said.

Mr. Lewis credited the positive movement of the peace talks in part to improved U.S.-Israeli relations and to a more active U.S. role in the peace process.

The discussions that took place between Mr. Christopher and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin — in order to get the peace process back on track after Israel expelled some 400 Palestinians to southern Lebanon last December — created a "bond of confidence" between the two governments, Mr. Lewis said.

Mr. Christopher's trip to the Middle East helped to cement that bond of confidence, Mr. Lewis said. "The U.S.-Israeli relationship at the end of the trip was now in the kind of shape it

needed to be in to get the peace process going again," he said.

"I don't believe we would be sitting at the (negotiating) table today or see the beginnings of the first real concrete negotiations going on" without the improvement in U.S.-Israeli relations, Mr. Lewis said.

During his trip to the region, Mr. Christopher also "succeeded in establishing himself as a serious, objective statesman in his contacts with Arab leaders," Mr. Lewis said.

Commenting on the current negotiations, Mr. Rabinovich said both Israel and Syria believe "that a deal is in the offing." At present, Israel and Syria are "haggling over the terms of the deal," he reported.

Israel has told Syria that "when you give us real peace we would be willing to give withdrawal," the ambassador said. Israeli views on withdrawal can only be explored after Syria "elaborates on what full peace is," he stressed.

Israel would also like the Syrian leadership "to talk to our people" and "take a series of measures that will have public resonance," Mr. Rabinovich said. After these measures have been taken, Syria will "hear us on what we mean about withdrawal," he said.

On the Palestinian track, Israel measures its success "on a daily basis," the ambassador said. The Israeli-Palestinian track "has to be tended with care," he said, adding that despite the difficulties, the Palestinians and Israelis have displayed a "genuine interest" in achieving an agreement.

Mr. Rabinovich stressed that to achieve peace between Israel and Syria and the Palestinians, all parties must make concessions and move toward peace. "There has to be give and take," he said.

There have been "significant developments" in the Lebanese and Jordanian tracks, the ambassador said. However, the Lebanese and Jordanians "are waiting for the Syrians and Palestinians to make the first steps," he added.

Mr. Rabinovich also expressed a "sense of optimism" about the prospects of reaching some kind of agreement in the near future.

"We are in a position where we could still hope to have concrete achievements in 1993," with the possibility of working towards a comprehensive settlement in 1994, the ambassador said.

"Full partner has nothing to do with getting in the way of direct negotiations; it has everything to do with promoting direct negotiations," he explained.

"There can be no substitute for direct negotiations. No peace can be imposed and no peace can be endured that is not negotiated directly by the parties," Mr. Ross stressed.

As a full partner, the United States can help the parties identify fruitful ideas and clarify positions taken by the parties, he said.

"There will come a point when our role will be one of presenting ideas we think will bridge gaps. But that point will come at the time in which the parties themselves have made a major effort to narrow the gaps and the time in which the parties themselves



EGYPTIAN TRIAL: Two veiled women, wives which is trying suspects on charges of bombings of defendants, sit in court in Bayt al-Saqqa, Egypt, and assassination attempts in Cairo (AFP photo)

## Iraq ready to supply data if U.N. agrees it met demands

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iraq is ready to reveal the sources of equipment for its nuclear weapons programme if the United Nations in return certifies Baghdad has complied fully with disclosure demands, a weapons inspector said Friday.

The U.N. inspector, Richard Hooper, said the Iraqi wanted assurances that the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would agree Iraq has complied fully with Security Council Resolution 687.

That resolution called for Baghdad to dismantle its programmes to build weapons of mass destruction and disclose the names of the suppliers.

"What they're saying is, 'we've cooperated... but we want some assurances that having done so, we get something back,'" said Mr. Hooper, an American.

He said the Iraqi demand was unacceptable to the United Nations.

Mr. Hooper headed a team of 14 experts that arrived in Bahrain Friday after spending a week in Iraq. The Inspectors' Special Commission has its regional headquarters in Bahrain.

Another stumbling block has been Iraq's refusal to accept U.N. resolutions that establish a long-term weapons-monitoring programme to ensure Baghdad's continued compliance.

Mr. Hooper said the Iraqis told him they had "no objection to the technical aspects of those resolutions... but formally would never accept them."

That Iraqi position, too, is not acceptable to the United Nations, Mr. Hooper said.

He said inspectors were confident that Iraq's nuclear-weapons facilities were "out of business" but that in the longer term, "How

do I know that some guy doesn't have uranium in his basement some place?"

Mr. Hooper's team took water samples at 15 sites throughout Iraq, these will be taken back to Vienna, the IAEA headquarters, to be tested for any traces of nuclear activity.

Also on the team were three experts who checked machine tools in Iraqi facilities north of Baghdad that might have dual purposes. The Iraqis insist the machines are not usable for nuclear-weapons work and the inspectors must decide whether that is the case.

Border based ends work

The U.N. commission that marked the border between Iraq and Kuwait over the objections of the Iraqi government finished its work Friday.

The U.N.-Iraq-Kuwait boundary demarcation commission, which provoked an Iraqi walkout when it decided on the land border last year, received a report at its final Geneva meeting that the sea border also has been marked.

The commission marked "the waters so that both countries could have access for shipping to the Gulf."

"Hopefully, it's going to be accepted by both parties," said Miklos Pinter, the U.N.'s chief cartographer and secretary of the commission, but he said he did not know what Iraq would do.

Iraqi officials reached at their mission in Geneva refused to comment, but Kuwait welcomed the commission's work, which was based on a 1963 agreement between the two countries.

Iraq has previously refused to accept the 202-kilometre land

border, which the commission moved several hundred metres north. Last January Iraqi soldiers crossed the line several times to carry off weapons left behind in Iraq's retreat at the end of the Gulf war.

The incursions were part of a series of incidents that led to allied raids on Iraqi installations.

"We are really pleased," said Mohammad Al Salal, Kuwaiti ambassador to U.N. offices in Geneva. "The job was done in a very efficient way with the best qualified experts."

Nicolas Valticos of Greece, the commission chairman, said the border was "clear and fair" and "takes into account the interests of the two countries and will allow them to develop good relations because no one has been badly treated."

The commission originally included three international experts and representatives appointed by Iraq and Kuwait, but Iraq stopped attending last year.

Nonetheless, the panel's findings are binding on Iraq under international law, officials said.

Mr. Pinter said he had kept Iraq informed of everything the commission discussed and did. He denied that the commission reallocated land between the two countries, but simply applied a long-standing agreement.

"It's a technical commission," said Mr. Pinter. "We considered no political issues. We strictly went by the delimitation formula, which gave a description of the existing frontier."

The commission did have to interpret the description, however, he said.

"We resurveyed the area," Mr. Pinter said. "And we put markers in the ground."

Border based ends work

according to the Interior Ministry.

Interior Minister Idris Harbi earlier denied opposition charges of electoral irregularity.

Mr. Aden Roble accused the authorities of keeping opposition officials out of some polling stations, notably in the districts of Obock and Tadjourah and some in Dikhil.

Mr. Aden Roble, leader of the National Democratic Party, claimed that 400 soldiers whose names were not on the rolls voted at one station.

Opposition activists claimed that many citizens who had not reached the legal minimum age of 18 years at the Feb. 28 cut-off date cast ballots anyway. No violence was reported.

France maintains about 4,000 troops in its strategically located former colony. French soldiers positioned themselves between the two sides last year, but have since withdrawn to barracks.

France, which sent 10 observers to monitor the election, on Friday offered to mediate between the warring sides.

Djibouti, its capital with the same name, lies on the Gulf of Aden and covers 23,000 square kilometres. It is bordered by Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

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## Home News

## Queen to open Jubilee school

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday will inaugurate the temporary Jubilee School for gifted children on the outskirts of Amman as part of Jordan's ongoing celebrations of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers.

According to Fathi Jarwan, the project's director, the Jubilee school is the first residential secondary school in Jordan to provide educational opportunities for outstanding Jordanian students.

He said it can accommodate up to 400 male and female students for a four-year term at the secondary level.

Dr. Jarwan said that initially 100 students from different parts of the country, especially the rural and underdeveloped areas, will be accepted each year, selected according to their special abilities and talents.

The school will be temporarily housed in a secondary school building provided by the Ministry of Education, but plans continue as scheduled in building permanent premises on 120 dunums at Um Zweifim, near the Royal Scientific Society in northern Amman, he added.

Schooling for non-boarding students will begin this fall, Dr. Jarwan said.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), which is undertaking the project in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, said in a statement that the Jubilee School will place emphasis on producing balanced and creative citizens, committed to productive work and to the ideals of moral and positive behaviour towards individuals and groups.

It said that the school aims to



give talented youths access to a distinguished secondary education, improve their performance in all disciplines, promote attention to the scholarly needs of high potential students and improve services to the academically gifted.

In preparation for the school's opening, the NHF organised workshops in 1989 to discuss curricula and teaching strategies, specifically in the fields of science and mathematics, to meet the needs of gifted children.

The workshops were designed to prepare teachers and supervisors for the school and offer a chance for an exchange of expertise between Arab and non-Arab educationists.

The statement said that as a laboratory school, the institution will contribute to the development of education throughout the region by accepting outstanding students from other Arab countries at a later stage.

During Sunday's ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi will hand over the school keys to Her Majesty.

The NHF said the Jubilee

School will be operated as an independent institution, governed by a board of trustees and an executive committee, as well as a faculty council.

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## Crown Prince meets with visiting peace activists

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met with the visiting PAX World Service Organisation delegation and discussed peace in the region.

Prince Hassan was quoted as saying that the human being and his basic needs in this region should constitute the axis of the efforts which deal with the priorities that were called for by Jordan because they form the basis for a just peace.

Spokesman for the 26-member American delegation, John Anderson, told Jordan Television that PAX "was a non-governmental body dedicated to the idea that by bringing Americans to countries of the Middle East, to learn about these countries, to talk to their leaders and to talk to the people themselves, we can then enlarge the chances for peace by creating better and more understanding."

Mr. Anderson, a former U.S. Congressman, said "We had a most informative and wonderful session with Jordanian leaders, who impressed us with frankness and forthrightness in their answers. We go away, I am sure, all of us feeling that Jordan is a country that shares with the United States many of the same values and democratic ideals," he said.

Earlier the PAX delegation



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday meets with a visiting delegation from the PAX World Service Organisation (Petra photo)



Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif Saturday meets with representatives of the U.S. War College (Petra photo)

At the meetings the minister discussed the lack of progress in the ninth round of the current Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

Mr. Sharif said Israel should end its repressive measures against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands as a manifestation of its good intentions and a confidence-building measure.

The minister also spoke about

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Adnan Al Sharif at Baladina Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of Yemeni heritage which includes photos and paintings depicting development in Yemen, books on the history of Yemen, traditional costumes and handicrafts at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of photos of His Majesty King Hussein and aspects of development in Jordan under his leadership at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Close-up photograph exhibition entitled "Intimate Petra" by Paula Williams-Brown and original embossed, hand-painted prints by Rima Farah at the Gallery, Inter-Continental Hotel.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Saha Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Yousef Abdelke at Al Balka's Gallery, Al Fubei city.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, on "The Literature of the Occupied Arab Lands between 1948 and 1967" by Dr. Afman Al Qasemi at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

### FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Bonnie and Clyde" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre.

### EUROPEAN FILM WEEK

- ★ Belgian film entitled "Wait Until Spring, Bandit" at 8 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Yousef Abdelke at Al Balka's Gallery, Al Fubei city.

## Northern village shaken by fierce storm, probably tornado

By Lima Nabil  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A tornado-like storm briefly hit an area in northern Jordan last week, leaving a trail of destruction to trees and opening a long rift in the fields.

The residents of the Khrbet Al Wahadneh village near Kifrunjeh last Tuesday heard what they described as a horrible sound resembling several fighter bombers flying at low altitudes or a terrible sound of thunder.

Meteorologist Jaser Rabadi, who reported the news after interviewing the townsperson and surveying the area, said local residents saw what appeared to them to be a long column of dark smoke rising some 150 metres above the ground on the northern side of the village and moving swiftly to the southeast.

Dr. Rabadi said the residents also saw trees being uprooted and hauled up into the air with a terrible sound. He said he took photographs of the wide devastated area of land where trees were torn up from their roots and others split in half.

Dr. Rabadi said he followed the path of the tornado and found that it caused damage to trees planted within a circle of about 60 metres in diameter.

A tornado, according to the New Encyclopaedia Britannica, is "a violent cyclonic (low pressure) storm with an intense updraft near its centre that is capable of lifting heavy objects such as trees and cars in the air and upending even heavier objects such as railway cars."

"The relatively low pressure at the centre of the funnel-like vortex causes cooling and condensation, thus making the storm visible as a revolving column of cloud called a funnel."

The paths of tornadoes average only several hundred metres in width and 26 kilometres in length.

According to Dr. Rabadi, a tornado has a fierce destruction power, but it lasts only a few minutes.

He believed that the storm witnessed by the villagers was an actual tornado, perhaps the only one in living memory in the Kingdom.

Dr. Rabadi said the seminar comes at a time when Jordan is actively seeking to increase its exports and the government is backing these efforts.

The minister said the government has created the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) to help local exporters find new markets abroad. He added that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is helping exporters with financing which in some cases reaches up to 90 per cent of the total cost of the exported products.

Two specialists from Austria, Hans Bauer and Guenter Langer, are expected to deliver lectures at the seminar on preparations for gaining access to overseas markets.

Mohammad Asfour, president

## U.S. rejection of wheat purchase not a matter of politics — sources

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A reported rejection by the U.S. government of a proposed purchase by Jordan of wheat has very little to do with politics but everything to do with trade and commerce procedures set by the U.S. authorities, informed sources said Saturday.

The sources, commenting on a report from Chicago that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S. D.O.A.) had turned down a Jordanian tender to buy 30,000 tonnes of American hard wheat, said the rejection did not mean that the U.S. was refusing to sell wheat to Jordan, but that the price proposed by the Kingdom was deemed low.

The sources, commenting on a report from Chicago that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S. D.O.A.) had turned down a Jordanian tender to buy 30,000 tonnes of American hard wheat, said the rejection did not mean that the U.S. was refusing to sell wheat to Jordan, but that the price proposed by the Kingdom was deemed low.

"It is a normal procedure that the buyer proposes a price so that the Department of Agriculture considers it and offers a proportionate subsidy to (the seller) to adjust the price and make it comparable with the European price of wheat," said one of the sources.

In the reported case, Jordan proposed a price of \$138.50 per tonne cost and freight (C&F) Aqaba, but it was not accepted by the U.S. D.O.A.

According to trade sources

familiar with Jordan's approach to international purchases, the Kingdom is a hard bargainer,

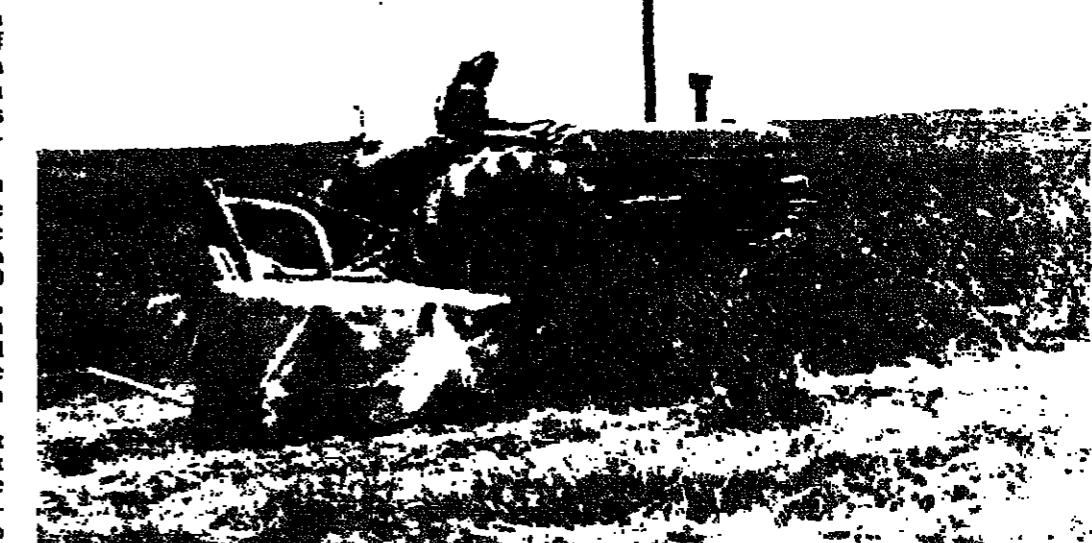
and, as one source put it, "it always starts from below minimum so that a good bargain could be struck in the end."

"The next step is for Jordan to improve its present offer and resubmit to the Department of Agriculture for consideration,"

said the source.

No Jordanian official was immediately available for comment on the issue, but sources noted that the procedures were routine and followed at every similar instance.

Jordan paid around \$145 per



Less than 10% of Jordan's annual consumption of wheat is grown in the Kingdom (File photo)

tonne of American wheat for its last purchase from the U.S., but international wheat prices have gone down since then.

The Department of Agriculture was also reported to have turned down an Egyptian offer to buy 150,000 tonnes lean wheat at \$106 per tonne free on board (F.O.B.) American port.

Jordan consumes around 600,000 tonnes of wheat per year. Its main source is the U.S. India, which sold around 200,000 tonnes to Jordan in 1991, had no wheat for exports in 1992 and 1993.

Diplomatic sources meanwhile noted that the Clinton administration had presented Congress with requests for approval of foreign assistance, including the release of \$50 million in 1992 funds for Jordan.

Submitting the requests of a congressional committee last week, Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian said American aid to Jordan was tied to the democratisation process under way in the Kingdom, the Middle East peace process and the enforcement of the international sanctions against Iraq.

"Jordan has taken very significant steps towards democracy over the past four years," he told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Sub-committee on Europe and Middle East. "This is one of the least appreciated success stories in the Middle East. Thus, maintaining stability in Jordan is part of our overall support for democratisation."

In the context of the Arab-Israeli peace process, Mr. Djerejian told the panel that American assistance "also helps sustain Jordan's very positive role... and its

contribution to guaranteeing the security of its borders."

According to the administration official, the aid also contributes to improving the UN sanctions against Iraq.

Mr. Djerejian acknowledged that Jordan was suffering severely from its adherence to the sanctions against Iraq, once the Kingdom's largest trade partner, and noted that Amman also had heavy foreign debts.

U.S. support for Jordan is crucial," he said. "We expect to begin consultations soon on the release of \$50 million" for the 1992-93 fiscal year, he told the House panel.

Further discussions on aid to the Kingdom remain in limbo "as we continue to monitor Jordan's performance on democratisation, the peace process and sanctions enforcement," he said.

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## Kuwait: The stumbling block

KUWAIT should be the last Arab state to want the collapse of any effort to heal the wounds created by the Gulf war of 1991. Yet, this is in effect what Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid confirmed recently when he revealed that the Arab reconciliation effort that he was spearheading was dropped at the insistence of Kuwait at last month's Arab League Council meeting. The Kuwaiti rejection of Arab mediation, Dr. Abdul Meguid reported, was based on the curious reasoning that time was not ripe yet for even discussing the proposal. We do not know of a more appropriate time to put into effect Arab reconciliation especially after the disastrous consequences of the Gulf war two years ago. Surely two years are more than enough to start the process of reconciliation among Arab countries. Given the Kuwaiti-favoured perimeters of Dr. Abdul Meguid's initiative, it is perplexing that the Kuwaiti government found it fit to reject it. According to reliable information, the Arab rapprochement would be pursued on the basis of investigating the reasons for the Gulf war as well as on eliminating its negative results. The plan also calls for reaffirming the Arab states' sovereignty over their respective territories and natural resources, something that the Arab World as presently constituted upholds religiously and Kuwait in particular is very zealous about. The Arab League's initiative also calls for an unequivocal rejection of the use or the threat of the use of force by any Arab state against another. Such ideas would seem to be exactly what Kuwait would like to safeguard and enshrine in the Arab body politic. The major shortcoming of the current Arab plan is the distinct absence of any element of Arab nationalism as a criteria for future inter-Arab relations. Still Kuwait sees no merit in the existing Arab plan even though it treats the Arab states as sovereign countries that are not bound in the least by the notion of one Arab Nation. Under these limited circumstances of the Arab initiative we see no legitimate reason for Kuwait to keep or derailing the attempt to bring back harmony among the Arab capitals. In this vein, we support Dr. Abdul Meguid's view that the Arab World cannot accept the Kuwaiti "no" as a final answer and that he will persevere in pursuing his efforts during an Arab tour that will bring him face to face with all the Arab leaders. The Arab World cannot be held hostage to whims by any single country even though that state was the main victim of the Iraqi invasion in 1990. The other Arab governments, especially those in the Gulf, should be asked to prevail on the Kuwaiti leadership with a view to activating a serious plan for settling the differences between the various Arab capitals.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday described attempts by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to reduce its services to the Palestinian refugees in Jordan as a form of pressure exercised on Jordan in order to make it accept orders that do not serve its national interests. Another form of pressure is that which is being exercised by the Western naval forces trying to carry out and ensure continued sanctions on Iraq, said the paper. Jordan has repeatedly rejected all forms of pressure and told UNRWA that it does not accept any reduction of services to the refugees ... Jordan at a time when it retains the same level of services in other Arab states hosting refugees, the paper said. It said that pressure by the agency or the naval forces does not conform to the requirements of the peace process now going on in Washington. Jordan, added the paper, has hosted thousands of evicted people from Iraq and Kuwait during and after the Gulf war and has been playing host to thousands of others, incurring additional social and economic burdens. The paper said that all forms of pressure on Jordan must end so that this country can pursue its noble mission of caring for the displaced persons on the one hand and continue its drive to attain a durable and just peace for the other. UNRWA's attempt to reduce services is bound to add to the burdens Jordan is bearing as a result of conflicts in the Middle East as the naval forces are burdening the economy of this country, the paper added. It said that it is hoped that the naval force and the agency will put an end to their harassment and pressure on Jordan, a country oriented towards achieving peace and stability in the region.

AL DUSTOUR daily attacked the Serbs of former Yugoslavia for pursuing genocide against the Muslim population of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Serbs' disregard of the latest agreements on a ceasefire and peace in the embattled nation is a flagrant violation of international laws at a time when the Western nations are trying to establish the so-called new world order, said the daily. The attacks by Serbs on Muslims can be classified to the criminal work of outlaws who ought to be stopped by the world community, said the paper. It said that condoning the Serbs' actions can only prolong the tragedy of the innocent civilians who look to the world community for help and to the European nations to find a way of restoring peace. The paper said that the Serbs' demolition of a mosque is not only an act of terrorism but organised crime, called ethnic cleansing, now being exercised in former Yugoslavia and causing further rifts between Christians and Muslims of the country. The demolition of the mosque demonstrates the Serbs' determination to disregard all international rules and to defy the UN and all of its resolutions, the paper added. The paper urged the United States and its European partners to act speedily and put an end to the aggression that is being waged on the civilian population there.

## Iran's relations with West set to remain strained

By Youssef Azmeh  
Reuter

DUBAI — Hopes that President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani would lead Iran out of international isolation have all but evaporated as the pragmatic cleric prepares to seek a second five-year term.

Western and regional experts now believe relations between Iran and the West will be on a knife edge as long as the mullahs are in power in Tehran.

Rafsanjani is widely expected to win a second term in June elections on a platform of economic reform and more openness to the world but his record has apparently failed to impress the outside world.

"His active search for better ties with regional neighbours and for an end to confrontation with the West have largely failed because he remains saddled with a radical legacy that is impossible to shed," a Western diplomat said.

Iran's confirmation of Khomeini's death edict on British author Salman Rushdie is a case in point.

Many Arab leaders, led by Egypt and Algeria, are alienated by Tehran's alleged backing for Islamic militants seeking to replace their governments with purist Muslim regimes.

Arabs and westerners alike are also alarmed by Iran's rearmament programme that has already introduced a powerful new weapon — submarines — into the Gulf waterway through which much of the West's oil supplies are channelled.

Western experts said European nations like France and Germany may wish to see easier ties with Iran that would help their firms penetrate a potentially lucrative market.

The United States and Britain remain adamantly opposed to Iran's clerical rulers.

Their determination to block any moves that would ease Iran's isolation appears to have strengthened under the Clinton administration, which according to a Washington-based source is "obsessed" with Iran's abysmal human rights record.

Actions by local Iranian officials appear to be coming to terms with continued Western hostility although they fear it would slow down the president's vital economic reforms.

"He, or any leader of the Islamic state, cannot be seen to be veering away from Khomeini's vision," one said.

Mr. Rafsanjani became president after the death in 1989 of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

founder of the Islamic republic.

His pragmatic approach and rivalry with Islamic radicals led to expectations that Mr. Rafsanjani, a skilful politician who worked his way up through the ranks of the clergy, would steer Tehran away from Khomeini's militant policies.

The Iranian officials said that radical leaders have lost many of their positions of power, but radical sentiment continues to permeate middle and lower ranks of the bureaucracy, especially in such sensitive departments as security and information.

"Rafsanjani's radical opponents have been removed from many top positions but they remain a significant influence within Iran as the self-appointed torch-bearers of Khomeini's legacy ... Rafsanjani cannot cross over," an Iranian official said.

The president was determined to rejuvenate and liberalise a deeply troubled economy that has yet to recover from eight years of war with Iraq and inefficient and heavy-handed state control.

"He (Rafsanjani) must make the economy work. He cannot get bogged down in infighting with radicals over issues that often sound to outsiders like medieval arguments over how many angels can stand on the point of a needle," he added.

Western officials, while welcoming Mr. Rafsanjani's economic liberalisation, say his refusal to take on the radicals meant that Iran would remain an international pariah.

The language of fundamentalism cannot sit easily together with the language of peace and diplomacy," one official said.

The alleged involvement of Iranian security agencies in action against political exiles, including assassinations, has kept Iran firmly at the top of U.S. and other lists of states said to be involved in terrorism.

It rearmament programme, fully justified in its own eyes at a time when its neighbours are arming themselves to the teeth, is widely seen as a serious threat in a region that sits on two thirds of the world's oil reserves.

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## International observers establish human rights foothold

By Kieran Turner  
The Associated Press

HINCHE, Haiti — Armed with only a U.N. mandate, 10 foreign observers are working in the territory of an army major who gained notoriety by threatening to crush every bone or cut off the hands, feet and head of anyone who cooperates with them.

The army watches the civilian observers and they keep an eye on the army while tracking violence done in this regional market town by the soldiers and allied thugs known as "chef-batons".

"Sometimes it's cat-and-mouse, but when we catch them, they are not beating people," said the head of the observer mission, Jean-Rene Marcoux, a Canadian.

Soldiers and chef-batons have killed hundreds of people in Haiti and imprisoned thousands with charge since the army overthrew Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president, in September 1991.

In the few weeks since coming to Hinche, the observers have visited beating victims in the hospital and talked to political prisoners in jail. They have pointed out abuses to the local army commanders and contacted hundreds of people hiding in safe-houses or in the bush.

Mr. Marcoux and other team members, from Brazil, Colombia, Chile, St. Lucia and the United States are among more than 100 observers in the first phase of a U.N.-Organisation of American States effort to return Haiti to democratic rule.

They seek respect for human rights guaranteed by the Haitian constitution and international treaties.

Haiti's rulers have withstood outside pressure to step down, including a hemisphere-wide embargo and a U.S.-backed diplomatic initiative by U.N. special envoy Dante Caputo.

Mr. Marcoux said the observers will remain for at least a year. But they and local civil rights advocates worry that they might have to leave without a political settlement having been

reached between Mr. Aristide and the army, exposing those they have contacted to retaliation.

"Someday the international community must send more than people with typewriters" to protect Haitians, said Rev. Raymond Decaluwe, a Belgian priest in the village of Los Palis.

The army tries to suppress all political meetings and any sign of support for Mr. Aristide in Hinche and surrounding hamlets.

The soldiers squeeze money or land titles from the peasants by threats of arrest and torture.

"The repression is a thousand times worse than what we suffered during the Duvalier dictatorship" overthrown in 1986, a schoolteacher said. Like many others, he asked for anonymity for fear of retaliation.

Maj. Jodel Charles, a heavy, muscular man in a black T-shirt who serves as mayor of the town, would not discuss the mission with a reporter who visited his modest home half a block from army headquarters.

"I follow the orders of my

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Iraqi move brings law to a lawless state of affairs

By Dr. Fahed Al Farak

The decision taken by the Iraqi authorities to withdraw the 25-dinar denomination of the Iraqi banknotes from circulation within a week was a sound financial decision taken by a responsible manager, and deserves understanding, taking into account the Iraqi's current difficult circumstances.

This was not the first time such a decision was made. The late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser made a similar decision thirty five years ago, in the aftermath of the Israeli-Anglo-French military aggression of 1956 and the massive capital flight that followed. The Egyptian monetary authorities withdrew then the 50 and 100 pound banknotes. In both cases, the borders were tightly sealed for a short period of time and the smugglers and underground currency-dealers abroad suffered heavy losses.

American President Richard Nixon did something similar on Aug. 15, 1971, when he decided to end dollar conversion into gold at a fixed price.

It is illegal for the Iraqi currency to be exported outside Iraq. Therefore, all those who bought or hoarded Iraqi dinars were breaking the Iraqi laws, and sometimes the laws of their respective countries. Those who break the law to make easy money at the expense of others should not be rewarded and, when possible, should be punished.

It seems that all the banknotes which were subjected to withdrawal from circulation are actually outside Iraq. It is estimated that 90 per cent of them are in the hands of moneychangers and other private speculators in the Gulf states, especially in Dubai. Those speculators foolishly expected the Iraqi dinar to sooner or later rebound, as did the Kuwaiti dinar, and that Iraq would redeem, at some time in the future, all these billions at the official rate of \$3.20 per dinar. Should these unrealistic expectations have materialised, the speculators would have doubled their capital 100 times at the expense of the Iraqi people. Now that they have lost their shirts, they have only themselves and their bad judgement to blame.

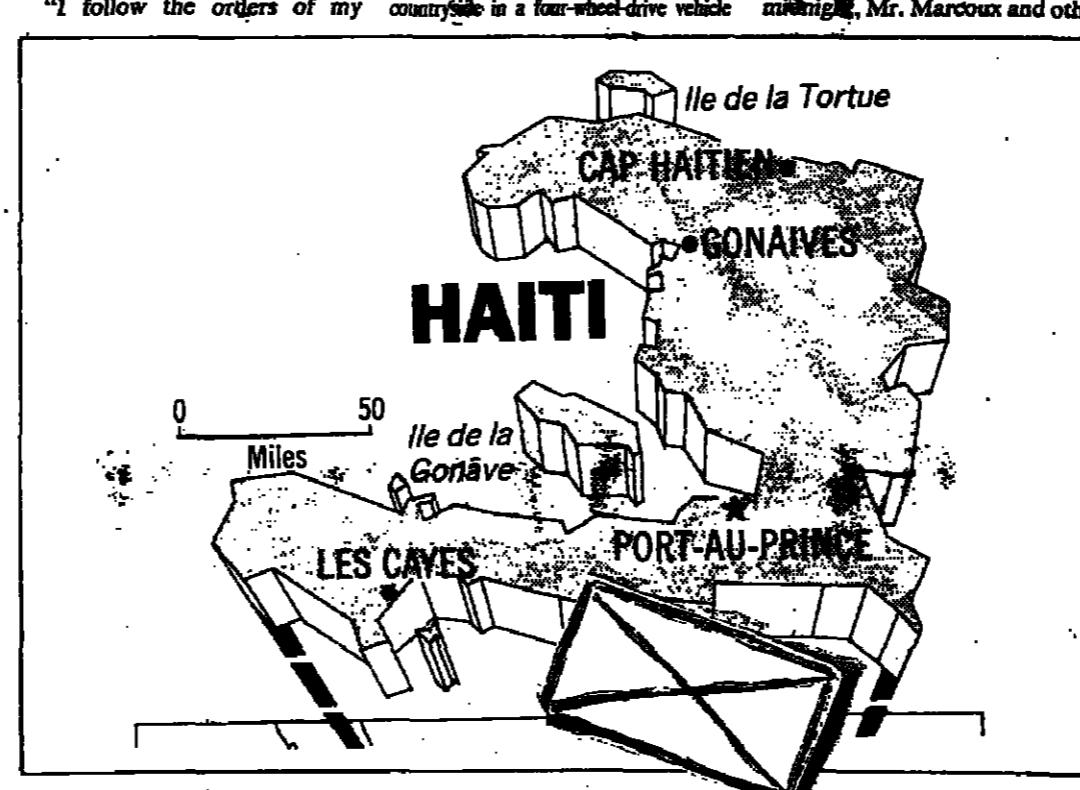
Very few so-called Swiss banknotes are still inside Iraq to be exchanged. Most likely, those who come up with big amounts of the 25-dinar banknotes for exchange will be investigated to make sure that the money is theirs and that they are not mere collaborators with speculators abroad. The risk of death penalty is too high to allow anyone to play with fire.

Reportedly, the American-sponsored rulers of Kurdistan refused to accept the newly issued Iraqi dinars and insisted on the old originals, which were printed in Europe before the Gulf crisis. Those rulers now realise, the hard way, that they cannot challenge the legitimate authorities in Baghdad.

The withdrawal of some 25 billion dinars from circulation will strengthen the Iraqi currency remaining in circulation and reduce inflation. As far as Jordan is concerned, there are no dependable figures. The best guess in town is that the Jordanian speculators may be in possession of up to 500 million Iraqi dinars (ID), or the equivalent of JD 15 million calculated at the price of 30 fils per ID which was prevailing before the Iraqi decision taken on Tuesday. A similar loss was incurred several years ago by Jordanians speculating on the Lebanese pound.

The Jordanian share of Iraqi dinars can be roughly estimated at two per cent only of all the stock outside Iraq. Those people made a bad investment, they sort of gambled. It is like buying a lottery ticket, where the odds to win are 1 to 100. Well, they did not win, and the value of the ticket simply vanished. Hard luck!

The enemies of Iraq will of course use the opportunity to tarnish the image of Iraq in the eyes of the Jordanian people, hoping to reverse their sympathy with the plight of the Iraqi people. The BBC, Voice of America, and especially Radio Monte Carlo, let alone Israeli radio and T.V., made efforts in that direction, but in vain. As long as the Iraqi people continue to be targeted by the West, and unfairly starved to death, Jordanians will understand all their actions and stand by them until they recover their freedom and independence.



members of his team checked on several people who were hiding out near the town.

Strolling down the dirt lane of one village, they were greeted by a man in a yard who raised a clenched fist and said softly, "We're glad you're here."

A woman approached with two toddlers in tow. The children cried, "Bring my daddy home, bring my daddy home".

Michael Wilson, an American observer, ventured out.

As if formally ending that day's game of catch and chase, Maj. Charles grasped Mr. Wilson's hand tightly and did not let go.

"I'm going home now," the major said. "I'm going to bed. I'm going to sleep. And God bless you."

Fearing retaliation, Mr. Mar-

coux sent a patrol truck back to the village late that night over a perilous path turned to mud by rain.

Back in Hinche, Maj. Charles showed up outside the mission's headquarters at about midnight.

Michael Wilson, an American observer, ventured out.

As if formally ending that day's game of catch and chase, Maj. Charles grasped Mr. Wilson's hand tightly and did not let go.

It seems that with all the help, fund-raising and charity work by tossing a few coins over to the many begging hands.

Before we are so considerate about souls being lost outside families we have suffering in our own country.

Abdel T. Abboushi,  
P.O. Box 35152,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

To the Editor:

Is it fair that one third of this small community is dying of hunger while less than half the population is only getting wealthier and greedier?

Is anyone really doing anything besides feeling bad? I am a seventeen-year-old school student who is aware of this issue, probably more so than most of us are. We have a major problem here: Jordan has a total population of three million, and already one million live below the poverty line. Is this a normal situation, where only 10 to 15 per cent are the ones really well off, living oblivious of the ugly forms of poverty surrounding them?

When we say people are dying because they have nothing to eat, does this mean we have to resign ourselves and say this is their fate? Should we rest the case because this is the kind of life they were meant to have?

It seems that with all the help, fund-raising and charity work by tossing a few coins over to the many begging hands.

Before we are so considerate about souls being lost outside families we have suffering in our own country.



## UNIVERSITY PROMOTIONS

### How truly do they reflect capabilities, serve the society?

By Dr. Majed A. Dabbas

**THE** current university system in Jordan suffers from many shortcomings which are reflected in unfair regulations and outdated policies. At the core of these shortcomings is the current promotion system for university staff members. The system is based entirely on a few published papers in making promotion decisions. Unfortunately, these papers are written, in general, for the sole purpose of meeting promotion conditions and not as a true research effort. In most cases, they lack any tangible benefit to the society.

Another system discrepancy penalises professors in technological subjects, such as engineering, by assuming their research needs to be the same as those in other areas, for example, Arabic literature.

If such a system continues to be the yardstick for measuring knowledge and rank, our universities will languish in their current status. Much worse, true knowledge will continue to be measured by titles that do not necessarily reflect improved qualities.

Several articles that have appeared in local papers over the past few years have attacked the

current university promotion system as utterly inefficient and questioned the lack of interaction between the universities and the society. Some university professors have gone as far as to describe their universities' graduate programme as 'faute'.

An important issue for a university professor is to move ahead within the ranking system and not remain stagnant. Naturally, a promotion brings certain privileges among those gaining more teaching experience and, most importantly, serving the needs of the university by being a famous scientist that attracts scholars and research funds.

Therefore, granting such promotions and privileges based only on a few publications is extremely detrimental to the university and its staff.

No-one can prove that such papers have either increased the knowledge or technical skills of their writers to warrant all the aforementioned benefits. True research in engineering is extremely expensive, time-consuming and resource intensive. In a developing country like Jordan, with scarce resources, it must be

well-planned and goal-oriented to avoid squandering funds.

Though promotion schemes in educational establishments in the U.S. and the United Kingdom are somehow complex, they are, however, realistic and fair. Several factors are considered for promotion purposes. To mention a few, teaching performance, advising and counselling students, refereed publications, service to the profession and university, quality of academic degrees attained and professional experience, are the factors typically listed.

Quality, rather than quantity,

is heavily stressed. As an example, someone with one worthy published paper may qualify better than someone else with numerous publications. The fairness of the system is striking in the sense that what is required can be achieved. The reasons are:

Availability of enormous funding and needed facilities, a reasonable teaching load with ample time for research and professional experience gained through encouraged consulting to industry.

By contrast, our universities

adopt a promotion scheme based

solely on the aforementioned papers. No other factors are taken into account. Publications in internationally renowned journals, where hundreds compete, are considered on par with those in recently established local research journals, whose credibility, or even impartiality, is doubted by many. Hence, it is unfair to assume that these papers transform their author into a more knowledgeable person than his peers or make him a better teacher mastering the subject matter. One U.S. professor, who is familiar with our system, commented on a recent visit to Jordan: "Your university took the shell of our system and left out the core."

Due to many apparent reasons, true research in engineering is almost unattainable in a developing country like Jordan. Despite this, archaic rules exist as if to complicate matters further. One such rule, for example, does not allow authors to benefit for promotion purposes, from research done while supervising M. Sc theses. It ignores the fact that research in engineering, whether theoretical, experimental or field

work is resource intensive. Unlike other disciplines, one cannot dream up new ideas on his own. The norm in engineering research is to have graduate students collect and analyse the data as part of their training process. A visiting U.K. professor recently commented on this rule by simply saying: "If that applied at my university in the U.K., I would never have published anything."

As if that were not enough, recent regulations prohibited assistant professors from supervising M. Sc theses and attached conditions to their teaching graduate courses. By contrast, a letter received by the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Jordan, for instance, showed that one of its sponsored Ph. D candidates, at one of the best U.S. universities, is supervised by an assistant professor. One wonders if our regulations are better than those in the U.S. and the U.K. New professors are encouraged there to concentrate on graduate level work both in teaching and research. Our system seems to work in reverse order.

Even at the best known institutions, with excellent true research records, professorial rank does not imply automatically more

sources of income are government funds and students fees.

Realising that the four papers are what counts in the end, professors are bound to sacrifice the quality of teaching for the sake of promotion. In many cases, the papers are regarded as a safety net by those who produced them to get tenured and enjoy the entitled privileges. One cannot recall a single benefit received by Jordan from research conducted in engineering. However, turning out unfit graduates is definitely detrimental to the whole country and the engineering profession.

Did such research, since the inception of the engineering college, lead to new discoveries, breakthroughs or contributed new theories? According to the Time magazine of March 21, 1988, the U.S. and Japan spent in 1986, \$119 billions and \$72 billions respectively, for funding research. It may be worth looking at the system enjoyed by American professors, who probably are the best and most productive in the world.

many countries. Therefore, it should be geared to the needs of the society and avoid wasting efforts and money by trying to reinvent the wheel.

Actually, it would be more beneficial to Jordan, if regulations relieve the promotion pressure on engineering professors. The idea of publish or perish is futile. With minimal resources, if any, true research will never flourish. Instead, time should be allowed to investigate areas where locally-conducted studies can produce any tangible benefit to the society. This requires inducements by the universities to encourage professors to interact with the growing industrial base.

It may be worth looking at the system enjoyed by American professors, who probably are the best and most productive in the world.

Dr. Dabbas is teaching at the University of Jordan's Civil Engineering Department

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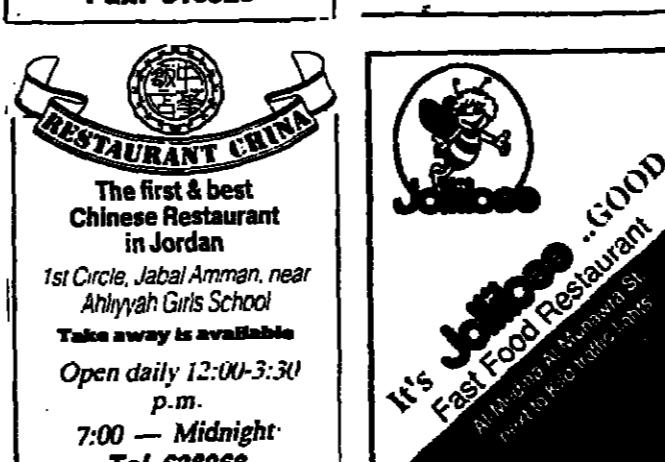
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Al Amer Centre - first floor  
Tel.: 694181-2-3.



Ahmad Nawash creates a balanced picture using the paint, the surfaces, the areas and the gradual colour. Mr. Nawash is a painter who uses his own method, which makes him live in a world of his own and makes us communicate with him through it. His works are far from the violence of the harsh, everyday life. His colours are those of dreams, or perhaps nightmares, but have a glow that seems to come from inside the artist.



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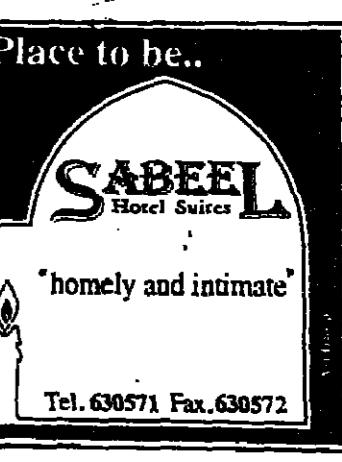
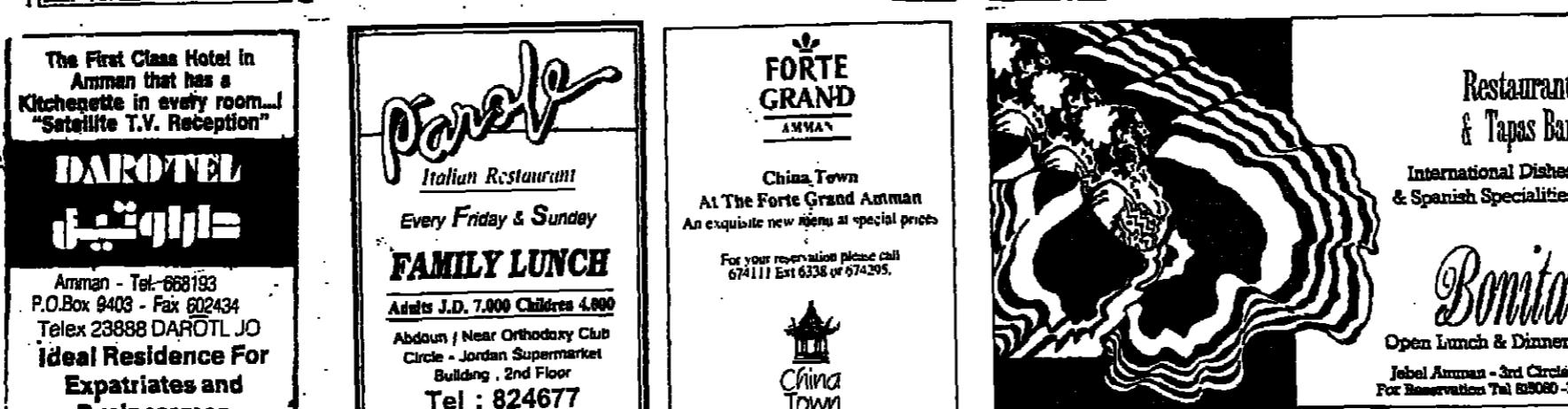
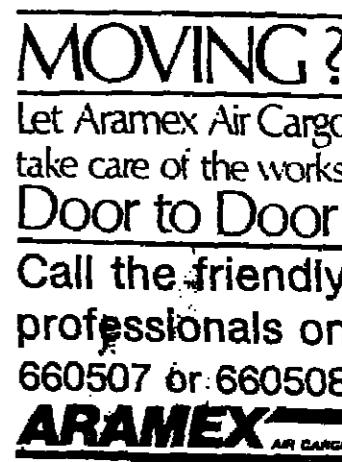
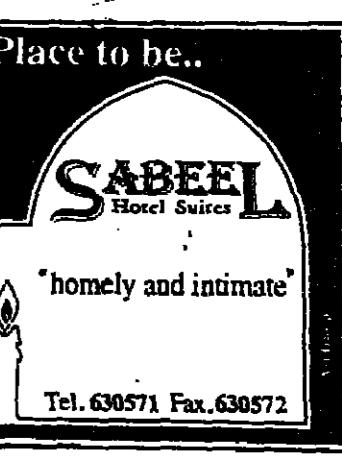
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# Sports

## Streets empty as soccer takes centre-stage in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Soccer fever brought Beirut a virtual standstill Friday as World Cup competition further broke Lebanon's post-civil war isolation.

The traffic-choked streets of the city emptied as the population prepared to see their first competitive international sport in more than 20 years.

Those who could not get one of the 12,000 tickets for places at the Bourj Hammoud Stadium were glued to their television sets. "The traffic jams only end on occasions like this," said one soldier left on street duty in the city.

Streetfighting between Christian and Muslim bands that made Lebanon notorious around the world ended in 1990, but dozens of soldiers stood on the rooftops of apartment blocks around the stadium as Hong Kong beat Bahrain 2-1 in the historic but auspicious opening match of the Beirut tournament.

The newly renovated Bourj Hammoud Stadium, located in an Armenian neighbourhood that stayed neutral during the civil war, is the only soccer pitch in Lebanon that meets the specifications of FIFA, the world governing body for soccer.

Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri arrived to watch India fight back for a 2-2 draw against the host country in the second match of the day.

Bahrain, Hong Kong, India, Lebanon and South Korea are competing in Group D of the first



Ahmed Hassan (No. 2) from Bahrain and Hong Kong's Lee Wai Man (No. 15) fight for possession of the ball during their Asian Group D World Cup qualifier. Hong Kong won 2-1 (AFP photo)

round of the Asia qualifying tournament to get to the World Cup finals in the U.S. next year.

Bourj Hammoud has undergone a million-dollar renovation to stage this crucial stage in Lebanon's recovery of its self-esteem.

The crowd roared with approval when Hariri said in a pre-match speech: "This tournament proves the war is over and that peace has arrived."

It is a message the Lebanese authorities have been repeating since the world football body FIFA awarded the tournament to Beirut last December. Hariri has already started into what the country will have to do to catch up with their Asian group rivals.

Many now fear a new bartering for national pride when Lebanon play Hong Kong Sunday in their next match.

The peace message was rein-

## Creatine said to boost performance — and it's legal

LONDON (AP) — Studies indicate it can improve stamina, energy and athletic performance. Runners and rowers say they have received a boost from it. Olympic athletes have used it in training.

Steroid? Stimulant?

You won't find it on any banned list. This stuff is perfectly legal.

Creatine, a substance occurring naturally in human muscle and present in fish and meat, is being hailed as a "wonder food" — the biggest breakthrough in nutrition-related performance enhancement since the advent of carbohydrate loading in the 1960s.

While some officials express skepticism and caution, researchers in Britain and Sweden assert that supplements of creatine can improve performance by as much as 5 per cent without violating any rules or posing any health risks.

"It's no different than carbohydrate loading," said Swedish researcher Eric Hultman, who has been carrying out studies on Creatine for more than 20 years. "I hope it can be used instead of drugs. I hope it can be a good alternative to drugs."

Creatine recently went on sale in tablet form under the brand name Ergomax, currently available in Britain and several other European countries.

Hultman and his colleagues said they found that creatine supplements can increase the store of energy in the muscles, maximizing performance in short-burst activities and reducing fatigue and recovery time.

"It won't increase performance above that which can be produced naturally under normal conditions," said Paul Greenhaff, a British researcher from Nottingham who works closely with Hultman. "What it will do is increase the rate of recovery so you can obtain optimal performance for a longer period of time. It offsets the development of fatigue."

The studies indicate the supplements mainly benefit people with lower levels of creatine in their bodies. Those with high levels show little if any improvement.

"In the worst circumstance, creatine could have no effect," Greenhaff said. "In the best circum-

stance, you can have a 5 per cent increase in the amount of work you can sustain."

Roger Harris, a physiologist at the animal health trust in Newmarket who has worked with Hultman since the 1970s, said creatine could have an impact on world records.

"If you happen to be a world record-holder, one can only assume you will do better," he said. "It will be exciting to see this."

Several British Olympic athletes used creatine in training for last summer's Barcelona Games, including 100-metre gold medalist Linford Christie, women's 400-metre hurdles champion Sally Gunnell and 110-metre hurdler Colin Jackson.

The Cambridge University rowing team used Ergomax during training for three months before defeating heavily-favoured Oxford in the boat race in March.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has found nothing wrong with taking creatine.

"This is a naturally occurring product which we get with normal food," said Prof. Arne Ljungqvist, chairman of the IAAF medical commission. "You wouldn't classify sugar-taking as doping, would you? If people want to take vitamins in pills instead of food, they do it. It's the same thing here. We feel there is no reason to intervene."

The British Athletics Federation takes a cautious view.

"There is a general concern that the line is getting closer and closer between proscribed and prescribed supplements and drugs," said federation spokesman Tony Ward.

The main concern is that athletes will take excessively high levels of the product on the flawed assumption that the more they use the more they will improve.

One possible deterrent is the cost. A one-month supply of 64 Ergomax tablets currently sells in Britain for 40 pounds (\$63).

Is it ethical for athletes to use creatine for some reason they would take illegal drugs?

Supporters say it's no different from eat high amounts of carbohydrates — known as carb loading, training at altitude or using state-of-the-art running shoes.

## Italian Open

### Navratilova, Capriati fall; Sanchez Vicario advances

ROME (AP) — Italy's hope for the future, a 16-year-old qualifier, and veteran Martina Navratilova, the No. 2 seed, were ousted Friday in the quarterfinals of the Italian Open.

Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, seeking her fifth Italian title, made quick work of Francesca Bentivoglio, crushing the youngster 6-1, 6-1 in just over an hour.

Sabatini will face No. 1 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, who breezed by Jennifer Capriati of the United States 6-2, 6-2 in just over an hour. Sanchez Vicario is the hottest player on the tour.

A crowd of 8,000 that packed centre court of the Foro Italico on a misty night loudly cheered the first Italian to reach the quarters since 1989. But it also applauded Sabatini, one of Rome's favorite players.

The third seeded Sabatini dominated from start to finish in a virtual tennis lesson for the player ranked 329 in the world. At one point, the Argentine returned a lob for a winner by hitting it between her legs with her back to the net.

Stich batters Lendl: In Hamburg, Germany, Michael Stich kept his dream of a third German final alive by battering Ivan Lendl to a 6-2, 6-2 defeat in only 72 minutes here Friday.

Lendl, the third seed, had begun the day by finishing off South African Marcos Ondruska.

Leading 5-5 overnight in the

other match, he duly completed a 2-6,

6-1, 6-4 victory to reach the

quarterfinals.

But Stich soon had him flinging

his racket on to the ground in

disgust during a performance full

of errors.

The German had lost all of the

six previous meetings between the

pair, the most recent in the

Munich final last week.

Stich batters Wheaton: In Tampa, Florida, Richard Fromberg of Australia, playing in his second singles match of the day, defeated third-seeded David Wheaton 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 Friday night to earn a semifinal berth at the 260,000 USTA men's clay of Tampa.

Fromberg will meet Bryan Shelton, who downed second-seeded Wally Masur of Australia, 6-4, 6-4.

Defending champion Jaime Yzaga also advanced to the semifinals.

Yzaga got past fourth-seeded Todd Martin 7-6 (7-3), 6-6, 6-1, while McEnroe beat former Stanford University teammate Jeff Tarango, 6-4, 6-4.

But the sixth seed exploited his powerful serve and volley game to oust a frustrated Lendl and reach the semifinals.

The match was played on a side court under the lights after rain halted all play at the Foro Italico for four hours.

The fourth seeded Fernandez survived a match point and eliminated her hard-hitting German opponent, the No. 8 seed, 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5).

Navratilova had said she wanted to play the Italian to tune up her game for Wimbledon, which she has won nine times. She is skipping the French Open, the only Grand Slam event played on clay.

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JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1993

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 9, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You find it difficult to solve perplexing problems today even when you concentrate intently upon what you are attempting to do. Hold off on considering solutions that come to your attention through public places and enjoy yourself.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Meet with one you want to impress of different views. From your early after which get into routine activities, get them in back of you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do what pleases your attachment early then you will be able to get into other activities of importance to you and impress them in an interesting fashion.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You make a strenuous early by giving some desired support but later you find it necessary to be very tactful with other outside associates.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get your environment enhanced so it has more charm early after which you are able to join with others in attending to whatever joint activities exist.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make plans to have a good time early in the daytime, then get together with attachment and friends for the recreations that are mutually enjoyable.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Improve whatever is possible at your residence early which is easy for later you find some outside condition requires your attention to solve.

## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Injured Forget withdraws from French Open

PARIS (R) — France's top player Guy Forget said Saturday he was withdrawing from the French Open tennis championships because of a knee injury. "I have to rest for at least a month but I hope to be fit for the Wimbledon Championships," the 28-year-old Forget told a news conference. Forget, 17th-ranked in the world, has suffered problems with his right knee for more than a year. He said the pain had become unbearable.

### Famed arena to close boxing division

NEW YORK (AP) — Madison Square Garden, once the showcase of fighters like John L. Sullivan and Joe Louis, is terminating its boxing division, the Garden said Friday. "It's true. It's unfortunate," Garden boxing spokesman Steve Griffith said. A source told the Associated Press the reason for the decision was financial. The Garden has been losing money on boxing. The New York Daily News and Post broke the story in Friday's editions. The Daily News said the decision was by the Garden's parent company, Paramount Communications Inc., because of allegations of ties between the sport and organized crime.

### Prost secures 5th successive pole position

BARCELONA (R) — Alain Prost secured his fifth consecutive pole position Saturday when he clocked the fastest time in final qualifying for the Spanish Grand Prix. Prost, driving a Williams, recorded a best time of one minute 17.809 seconds at an average speed of 219.63 kph, in the process setting a qualifying lap record for the circuit de Catalunya. Prost's time lifted him half a second clear of his British team mate Damon Hill.

### Louganis among 10 inducted into Hall of Fame

FORT LAUDERDALE (AP) — Diving champion Greg Louganis, butterfly record-holder Mary T. Meagher, six-time Olympic gold medalist Kristin Otto and distance standout Vladimir Salnikov were among 10 athletes and coaches inducted Friday into the International Swimming Hall of Fame. Louganis was the world's top diver in the 1980s, sweeping platform and springboard titles in 1984 and 1988. Meagher set the two longest-standing records in swimming in 1981, 57.93 seconds in the 100-metre butterfly and 2:05.96 for 200 metres, marks that haven't been seriously challenged since. She won three gold medals in the 1984 Olympics and added a bronze in the 200 butterfly in 1988. Otto won the 50- and 100-metre freestyle, the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly in the 1988 Olympics as well as swimming legs for the East German freestyle and medley relay teams. Her six golds established an Olympic record for a woman swimmer. Salnikov made history in the 1980 Olympics when he became the first to swim 1,500 metres in less than 15 minutes.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH  
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### A CARDINAL RULE

North-South vulnerable, South deals.

**NORTH**

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♦ 10 2

♦ Q 9 8 4

♦ 9 5 2

♦ J 10 6 2

♦ 9 8 4 3

## Economy

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
BROKING BANK, COSTUMES, AUTO - EQUIPMENT TRADING VOLUME, 1992/93 / 663170 ORGANIZED MARKET, SHARI, PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY, 06/05/1993					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE	PRICE
AMMAN BANK	65,660	1,481.00	138,250	138,500	138,500
BANK OF JORDAN	112,976	4,930	4,990	4,990	4,990
JOORDAN EAST INVESTMENT BANK	37,455	51,200	23,000	25,000	25,000
JOORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	19,890	1,990	3,980	3,980	3,980
JOORDAN KUWAIT BANK	35,707	3,820	3,620	3,640	3,640
JOORDAN NATIONAL BANK	47,163	1,650	1,810	1,820	1,820
JOORDAN TRADING & INVESTMENT BANK	3,103	4,600	4,350	4,350	4,350
JOORDAN TRADING & INVESTMENT FOR HOLDINGS	13,983	3,100	3,250	3,250	3,250
JOORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	29,226	5,940	5,830	5,830	5,830
JOORDAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	49,491	1,980	1,980	1,980	1,980
JOORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	459,739	1,150	2,170	2,170	2,170
JOORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	32,673	3,880	3,860	3,860	3,860
JOORDAN PETROLEUM	127,174	1,990	1,910	1,890	1,890
JOORDAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	22,575	8,610	9,150	9,020	9,020
JOORDAN INDUSTRIAL FEDERATION	1,424	1,420	1,420	1,420	1,420
JOORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850
JOORDAN NATIONAL TRAVEL & SPA COMPANY	10,020	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250
JOORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	8,299	2,940	2,940	2,940	2,940
JOORDAN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL	47,466	4,220	4,050	4,050	4,050
JOORDAN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL	124,345	2,950	2,950	2,950	2,950
JOORDAN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL	34,522	1,170	1,170	1,170	1,170
JOORDAN EQUIP. READING & MAINTENANCE	15,226	2,180	2,170	2,170	2,170
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & INDUSTRIES	9,213	11,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
JOORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING	1,020	1,020	1,020	1,020	1,020
JOORDAN RAIL & TERMINAL HOTELS	38,014	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
JOORDAN RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT	475	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950
JOORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	270,864	2,220	2,220	2,220	2,220
JOORDAN TANNING	211,100	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
JOORDAN TANNING	3,460	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600
JOORDAN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL	2,012	2,010	2,010	2,010	2,010
JOORDAN PHARMACEUTICALS	1,672	9,420	9,420	9,420	9,420
JOORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIAL	95,572	7,690	6,650	6,740	6,740
JOORDAN DYE	32,024	2,420	2,300	2,260	2,260
JOORDAN PLASTICS & PACKING	1,592	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,100
JOORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD PACKAGING	7,106	4,220	4,220	4,220	4,220
JOORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	415	4,220	4,220	4,220	4,220
JOORDAN INDUSTRIAL & INVESTMENT	102,327	14,420	13,350	14,420	14,420
JOORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	19,024	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
JOORDAN INVESTMENT	2,127	3,290	3,230	3,280	3,280
JOORDAN INDUSTRIAL & TRADING	7,789	2,120	2,120	2,120	2,120
JOORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	78,151	5,850	5,850	5,850	5,850
JOORDAN STEEL INDUSTRIES	25,144	2,920	2,920	2,920	2,920
JOORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	23,723	5,700	5,850	5,850	5,850
JOORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	12,415	2,880	2,880	2,880	2,880
JOORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	12,415	2,880	2,880	2,880	2,880
JOORDAN PLASTIC & WIRE MANUFACTURING	5,279	5,620	5,620	5,620	5,620
JOORDAN GULFO-CHEMICALS	16,216	4,550	4,550	4,550	4,550
JOORDAN REFRIGERATION & CYCLOPS	297,261	4,240	4,360	4,360	4,360
JOORDAN REFRIGERATION	2,160	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600
JOORDAN INVESTMENT	67,254	5,300	5,300	5,300	5,300
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>4,657,983</b>				
NET OF TRADE SHAPES	1,961,212				
TRADED VOLUME	1,961,212				

## Industrial Development Bank signals potential to break '92 record in 1993

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two days ago the news was that the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) had posted a record net profit of JD 2.53 million last year; today the better news is that the IDB is going to make 1993 its best and unprecedented profitable year.

An IDB statement seen Saturday shows that in the first quarter of this year the bank has approved extending 44 loans totalling JD 7.7 million. The number of loans and the amount compare to 33 loans, only for JD 4.8 million, extended in the first quarter of 1992.

The higher activity reflects an increase of 41 per cent in the number of loans and a 62 per cent in the volume of loans extended in the first quarter of this year. Forty loans, totalling JD 6.1 million, were granted for industrial projects, three, totalling JD 1.6 million, went for touristic projects and one JD 25,000 loan benefited one service scheme.

The IDB bulletin said that 20 credits were extended to new projects and 24 credits were given to existing projects. The bulletin further detailed the types of loans, noting that 68.5 per cent of the total amount was for financing equipment purchases, 22 per cent for building factories and 9.5 per cent to finance purchases of raw materials.

The projects, which received financing to build plants or to buy equipment and other fixed assets, were estimated by the bulletin to have a JD 21.5 million cost; the added value from these projects to the national income would be about JD 8.5 million during the first year of production.

Moreover, the aforementioned



Haddad bamboo workshop at Sahab industrial city

were for new projects. The main financing, the report indicates, has been in favour of acquiring equipment; a total of JD 17.2 million has been spent for this purpose in 1992. The highest financing in previous years had also been for acquiring equipment.

From 1965 until the end of 1992 the IDB has approved 1,845 loans totalling JD 176.8 million but, after cancelling or amending the value of some of the credits, the net value of the loans stood at JD 167.2 million as of Dec. 31, 1992.

Lending to crafting, handicraft and small industries went up from 181 loans, totalling JD 1 million in 1991, to 242 loans totalling JD 1.6 million in 1992; 76 loans, amounting to JD 0.6 million, benefitted clinics and medical laboratories.

Other loans in the craftsmen and small industries category were: Metal workshops (31), restaurants and bakeries (23), carpentry (23), brick, tiles and marble industries (18), sewing and upholstery (21), printing and photography (13), maintenance workshops (9), leather industries (7), dry cleaning (6), goldsmiths (5) and others (5).

The IDB started lending to craftsmen, handicraft and small industries in 1975 and by the end of 1992 the bank had extended 3,016 loans amounting to JD 9.5 million.

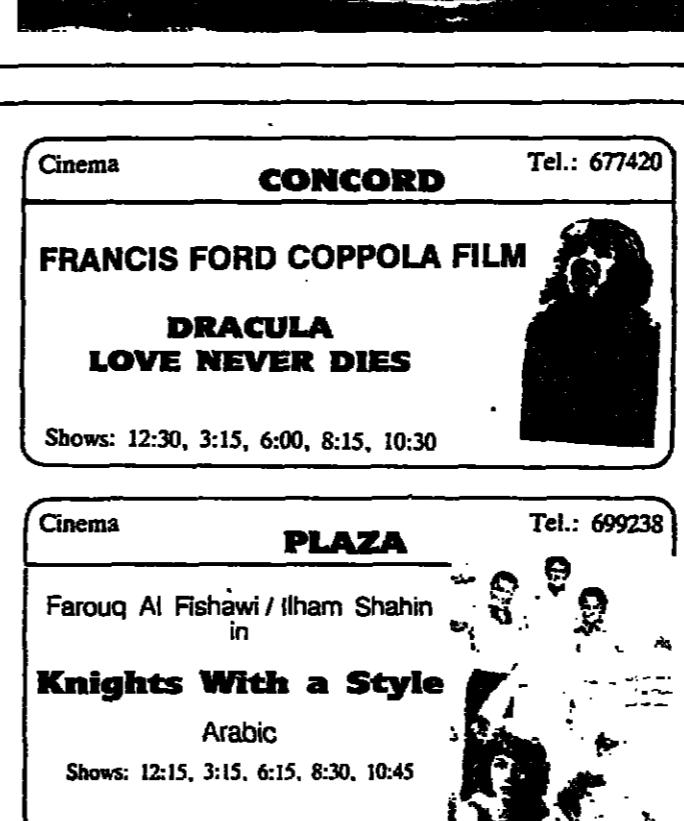
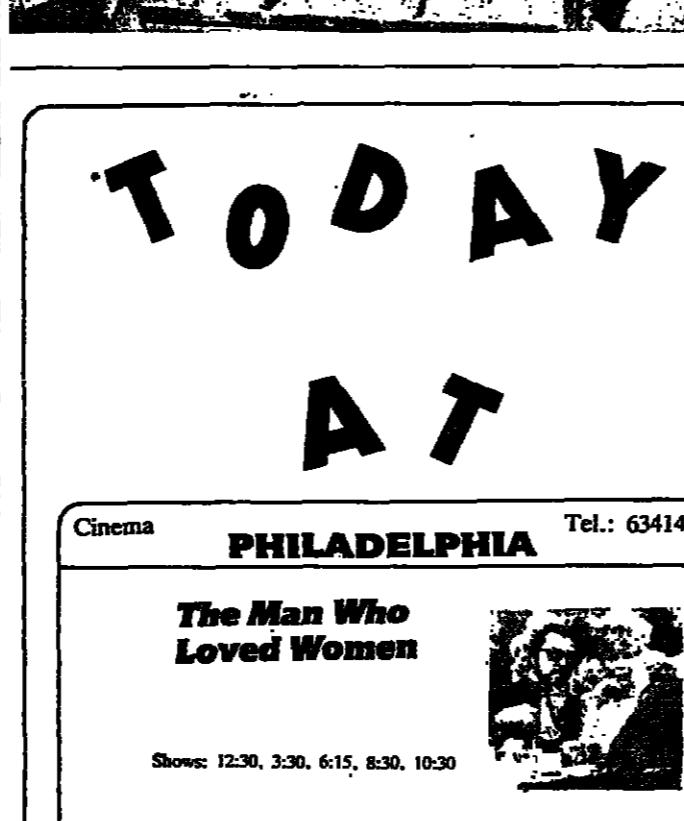
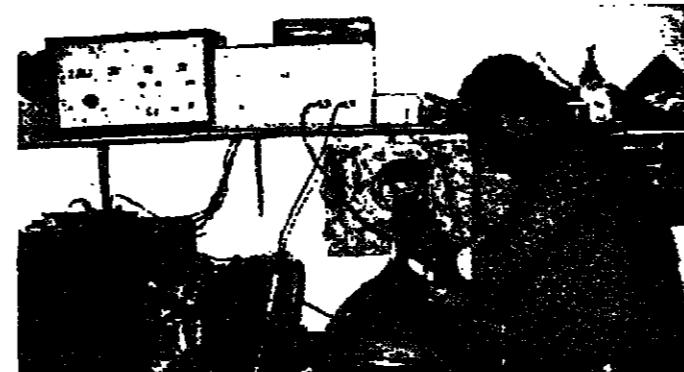
According to the report, these industries, and a few others which were also given credits, had a total cost of JD 72.3 million and had created 2,111 employment opportunities.

The report reveals that out of the 202 loans extended last year, 74, amounting to JD 13.6 million,



Four industries show manufacturing of ladies nylon stockings, cans, heaters and boys wear

Clockwise are a carpentry, restaurant, T.V. repair shop and a sanitary fixtures workshop.



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## 3 Cambodian factions seek weapons back for protection

PHNOM PENH (R) — Three Cambodian factions which earlier surrendered weapons to U.N. peacekeepers have asked for them back because of renewed violence by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, U.N. and Cambodian officials said Saturday.

If the request were granted, it could mean the return of 53,000 weapons to the factions less than two weeks before U.N.-organised national elections scheduled for May 23-27.

The Phnom Penh government army, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and royalist guerrillas made the request at a joint military meeting with the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), said U.N. military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Dick Palk.

"They wish to take them back. They are concerned about security, that the NADK (Khmer Rouge guerrillas) will attack them," he said.

Because of the political sensitivity of the request, the factions had been asked to consult their political leaders about it, he said.

"No decision has yet been made and as far as I know no weapons have yet been released," Col. Palk said.

Releasing the weapons would signal the final failure of efforts by the 22,000-strong UNTAC force, monitoring the 1991 peace agreement, to disarm most of the combatants in the 13-year civil war before the start of polling.

Last summer the Maoist Khmer Rouge guerrillas, who

were in loose alliance with the KPNLF and the royalists during the civil war, refused to go along with disarmament.

The Khmer Rouge has since announced a boycott of the elections and vowed to use violence to disrupt them.

In the past week it has launched attacks in northwest, central, eastern and southern provinces, which killed dozens of people and wounded scores. The guerrillas also attacked peacekeepers, U.N. officials say.

At a news conference at the Khmer Rouge jungle stronghold just inside the Thai-Cambodian border Friday, spokesman Mak Ben admitted taking part in attacks, notably on Siem Reap town, but denied attacking U.N. peacekeepers.

U.N. officials estimate at least three times this number remain in circulation, mainly in the government army.

Mr. Mak Ben said only the formation of a "provisional government of national reconciliation" can bring political stability to Cambodia.

He said the Communist group would meet with the country's three other main factions only to discuss the formation of such a body, which would include representatives of each group.

The Khmer Rouge boycotted an emergency meeting in Peking this week called by Cambodian head of state Norodom Sihanouk to discuss instability as the country approaches elections May 23-28.

The Khmer Rouge want to disturb the election and we have to protect ourselves and UNTAC," he said.

"We need the weapons to show the Khmer Rouge that we don't want to joke with them. We are

taking this very seriously."

The royalist army has already stepped up armed patrols of its northwestern zones which it shares uneasily with the Khmer Rouge. Soldiers from 30 per cent of each total force are allowed to retain their weapons under the peace agreement.

Col. Palk said 52,928 weapons were put into U.N. cantonment last year, mostly small arms. Of these 6,804 were handed in by the KPNLF and 4,555 from the royalist army. The rest were from the peacekeepers.

It is clear that the United Nations is called upon to do its utmost to proceed with the election," Dr. Ghali said in a written report to the Security Council.

"Not to proceed would mean ceding to unacceptable threats and giving the right of veto over the peace process to an armed group that has rejected its commitment under the Paris agreements," he said.

Japan sent its home affairs minister to Cambodia Saturday to try to improve security for its peacekeepers there after the killing of the Japanese policeman.

"I shall be asking (the U.N. authorities in Cambodia) to tighten security arrangements for Japanese peacekeepers," news reports quoted Keijiro Murata as saying.

Mr. Murata was expected to hold talks in Phnom Penh Monday with Yasushi Akashi, Japanese head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia, the reports said.

Mr. Mak Ben said the election "is unacceptable to the Cambodian people and the Cambodian National Resistance" and "will not allow the Cambodian people to exercise their right to self-determination."

Meanwhile, despite escalating violence and an election boycott by the Khmer Rouge, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Friday recommended that Cambodia's first free elections be held this month as scheduled.

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Khmer Rouge spokesman Mak Ben (left foreground) talks to reporters Friday at the Cambodian border town of Phnom Penh (AFP photo)

## Major under pressure to fire Lamont

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major came under intense pressure Saturday to fire his unpopular chancellor of the exchequer or risk losing his own job after his ruling Conservatives suffered an electoral hammering.

A growing band of Conservative members of parliament told Mr. Major he must assert his authority by dismissing Chancellor (Finance Minister) Norman Lamont after voters made it clear they had no confidence in the government's economic policies.

"My feeling is that if this government is to have any credibility left... we have got to have a change of chancellor," said Conservative MP John Carlisle.

Thirteen months after returning to power, Mr. Major is under pressure to fire Lamont. Thirteen months after returning to power, Mr. Major is under pressure to fire Lamont.

"And we have got to have, frankly, the smack of firm leadership. If the prime minister continues to resist changes and to protect his friends then his own position must itself be in jeopardy. To save himself, he has got to sacrifice others."

Mr. Major acknowledged that voters gave his government "a bloody nose" at the ballot box Thursday. The Conservatives lost a parliamentary seat they had held since 1924 by a huge margin and emerged from local elections controlling only one of the 47 councils in England and Wales.

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## COLUMN

### Prince accused of 'pot belly' gaffe in Hungary tour

LONDON (R) — Britain's popular press accused royal consort Prince Philip of marrying Queen Elizabeth's state visit to Hungary with a stray remark about how local food could give visitors a "pot-belly". The 71-year-old prince, who once caused a furor with a quip about "slitty eyes" during a tour of China, made the offending comment during a walkabout through Budapest on the final day of his wife's state visit to Hungary. Britain's tabloids, which rarely pass up an opportunity to rebuke the crisis-torn royals, said the prince struck up a conversation with a Briton in the crowd who had been in Hungary for two weeks. "You can't have been here that long, you haven't got a pot belly (paunch)," the prince was reported to have replied. The story was printed in Saturday's times and most tabloid newspapers, which said the comment risked offending the Hungarians by suggesting they were fat, although it could be seen as a tribute to the generosity of his hosts and the quality of their food.

### Man survives close encounter with two lions

NEW YORK (AFP) — You have to be crazy to want to face off with two lions and even luckier to survive, and that is exactly what happened to Alfredo Rials, a schizophrenic who left New York's Bronx Zoo with 19 stitches, but alive. Mr. Rials, 32, Wednesday climbed three fences to get inside the zoo's African Plains exhibit and sit face-to-face with two, 160-kilogramme (350-pound) female lions for 10 minutes.

The affable Major, 50, whose relaxed style contrasts with that of his predecessor Margaret Thatcher, has ignored calls for his removal.

Political analysts said Mr. Major urgently needed to assert his dominance or risk a challenge to his leadership.

Italy's local polls to measure public response to scandals

ROME (R) — Campaigning officially begins in Italy this weekend for local elections which will show for the first time how badly the country's huge corruption scandal has hit its main political parties.

Candidates' lists closed at mid-day Saturday for the June 6 elections in which 11 million voters, around one quarter of the total, will elect 1,250 city councils including the big northern centres of Milan and Turin.

"That's when the parties will realise just how much damage the scandal has done," said Christian Democrat (DC) parliamentarian Francesco D'Onofrio. "So far they don't seem to have grasped just what an explosion in their ranks it has seen," he told reporters.

The campaign will keep the 15-month scandal in the headlines as Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi begins his task of enacting electoral reform by the August summer break.

The much larger DC, Italy's dominant post-war party, has suffered even worse humiliation af-

ter a succession of mafia informers accused its former leaders of having close links to organised crime.

In the last general election in April 1992, the DC's share of the vote fell below 30 per cent for the first time, and although it remains strong in the south, several commentators believe it is no longer an effective political force in the rich industrial north.

"These elections will be the third and last phase of this regime's decline," said Umberto Bossi, leader of the fast-rising Northern League, expected to be the election's big winner.

The first, he told reporters this week, was the 1992 ballot in which voters deserted the established parties in favour of reformist and protest groups.

The second, he added, was the runaway success of last month's referendum which proposed scrapping proportional representation as a means of electing members of the Senate.

### IRS seizes Jerry Lee Lewis' pianos

NESBIT, Miss. (AP) — Federal tax agents seized pianos, furniture and mementos from Jerry Lee Lewis' house and planned to auction them unless the rock 'n' roll legend pays more than \$1.6 million in back taxes. "The Lewis' were finally led away by zoo keepers. Mr. Lewis was given 19 stitches to the head and face and was expected to remain in hospital for two weeks for psychiatric evaluation.

The New York Times said the FBI assertion was backed up by 570 pages of heavily censored material obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

However, biographers and associates have either cast doubt on the charges or said glimmers of truth were taken out of context.

For example, while the anti-Communist Disney may have been friendly with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, so were most of the Hollywood studio chiefs, they said.

Lewis was performing in Europe, said Kim Schuterman, a cousin of Kerrie Lewis, the singer's wife. The government said Lewis owes taxes for 11 years, from 1978 to 1986 and for 1989 and 1991. He filed for bankruptcy protection in 1988 and was freed of some debt, but not the \$1.6 million. "Jerry Lee wants to pay what he owes," said his lawyer, Charles Waldman. "He needs to get up on high ground, to earn the money to pay these debts."

### Viewers shocked by porn in place of family show

BANGKOK (AFP) — Viewers settling down to watch a morning show on a military-owned Thai television channel were shocked to find it broadcasting explicit sex scenes, the Daily News reported.

Viewers of House Number Five rushed to their telephones to complain about the slip up when producers on Channel Five accidentally broadcast a pornographic movie instead of the normal family-oriented show, the Thai-language paper said. The newspaper said the producers were "testing" the tape during a broadcast of House Number Five when one of the staff accidentally pressed a switch bearing out the porn movie. "We are investigating the case," a TV official said.

Daily News did not say how long the channel broadcast the sex scenes.

## U.S. Navy to scrap over 100 ships in cutbacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Navy is to reduce its fleet from 460 to 340 ships, and to postpone or cancel the purchase of new-generation bombers, as part of large-scale cutbacks, the Washington Post reported Saturday.

The navy is to keep its 12 aircraft-carriers, but cut back its submarine fleet, the paper added.

The plan outlined by the Post calls for the scrapping of aging A-6 bombers and putting off for a decade the purchase of AFX aircraft, equipped with Stealth radar, which are due to replace them.

The paper said that navy and air force chiefs are even considering scrapping the AFX altogether and replacing it with a fighter-bomber which would cost less and be used by both parts of the armed forces.

Meanwhile, the United States said Friday it will close or cut operations at another 46 overseas military sites, mostly in Europe, and bring home 6,100 more U.S. troops in a continuing round of post-cold war budget cuts.

The eleventh round of such reductions at overseas bases since early 1990 will include 22 sites in Germany, 10 in Britain, 10 in South Korea, three in Italy and one in Morocco, the Defense Department announced.

Virtually all the troops affected in the latest round would be in Europe. The cuts in South Korea involve very small facilities such as radar sites.

This latest round of reductions brings to 744 overseas installations — 679 in Europe — where operations will be ended, reduced or placed on standby" in less than four years, the Pentagon said.

The 744 worldwide installations represent 45 per cent of U.S. facilities overseas at the beginning of 1990.

There were 173,000 U.S. military personnel stationed in Europe as of March 1, including 105,000 army troops. The move announced Friday would eventually reduce that total to about 167,000.

The Pentagon is moving to cut the overall U.S. troop presence in Europe to 100,000 by 1995 on orders from Congress to slash the defense budget after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Friday's announcement came at a time when defense officials and some members of Congress are warning that the U.S. military presence in Europe must not be cut too quickly because of potential trouble spots such as the bloody civil war in Yugoslavia.

Returns or partial returns of military facilities to host countries overseas since January 1990 have reduced the U.S. military presence abroad by some 140,000 troops, most of those in Western Europe.

The largest site affected by Friday's announcement would be the U.S. army's facilities at Tacken Barracks in Germany. The partial closing of sites there would affect more than 3,400 military personnel and an additional 540 U.S. civilian and 473 foreign workers.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Georgia gets new defence minister

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — The defence minister resigned in a power struggle with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and was replaced by a 27-year-old former Red Army captain, reports said. Tengiz Kitovani resigned when it became clear the parliament would not confirm him as both deputy prime minister and defence minister. He had held both posts since the current government was formed last year. Mr. Kitovani rose to power after rebelling from the Georgian National Guard and leading the forces that toppled former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia last January, paving the way for Mr. Shevardnadze's return to power. He has advocated a harsh policy of military force against several pro-independence ethnic groups in the southern former Soviet republic. Mr. Shevardnadze nominated General George Karkashvili, who was approved by Georgia's parliament Thursday with a vote of 149-6. Mr. Shevardnadze said Gen. Karkashvili would continue Mr. Kitovani's policies. Gen. Karkashvili graduated from the Tbilisi Artillery School and served in Abkhazia whose Muslim minority has been battling for independence from the Georgian government in Tbilisi.

#### German bunker housing refugees attacked

BREMEN, Germany (R) — Unidentified attackers hurled two firebombs at a World War II raid shelter used to house foreign refugees, police in the northern German city of Bremen said Saturday. Police said one petrol bomb ignited but did no damage to the outside concrete wall of the windowless bunker shortly after midnight. About 70 people live in the make-shift hostel. Refugees from Eastern Europe and the developing world, drawn to Germany by a liberal law on political asylum, have been the targets of a year and a half of firebombs and brutal attacks by neo-Nazi gangs.

#### Ukraine resents U.S. pressure

KIEV (AP) — U.S. pressure on Ukraine to get rid of nuclear weapons has caused resentment here and strengthened those who want to keep the arms, officials and analysts from both countries said this week. As a result, U.S. ambassador-at-large Strobe Talbott is expected to take a softer approach when he visits Kiev Sunday and Monday. While the United States will continue to insist that Ukrainian legislators ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, it will try to show more understanding and offer economic incentives in return. The enticement that Mr. Talbott may dangle before the lawmakers may include greater assistance for Ukraine's troubled economy and the \$175 million that the United States has offered to help dismantle the weapons.

#### China bans gifts to officials

PEKING (R) — China has threatened severe punishment for officials who accept gifts in exchange for favours. A circular issued by the Communist Party Central Committee and the State Council (cabinet) bans the practice, Xinhua News Agency said Saturday. The circular did not make clear how graft would be uprooted in China, where the practice is deeply entrenched. But it warned: "Those who extort gifts or securities will be punished severely." The agency said the circular pointed out that it was "highly reprehensible" for officials to receive or give gifts or securities.

#### Colombian rebel leader offers truce

BOGOTA (R) — The head of Colombia's second biggest guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army (ELN), offered a truce in his decades-old war on the state Friday if the government agreed to stop fighting the rebels. ELN chief Manuel Perez, in an interview with Spanish television, also said he would accept Spanish government mediation with the Colombian administration to secure a ceasefire. "We are ready to agree a truce now, at the moment the government decides that it is bilateral," said Mr. Perez, 50, a former Spanish priest who has led the 3,000-strong ELN for over two decades in its struggle to turn Colombia into a Marxist state.

#### Clinton unveils campaign reform plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton has unveiled a plan for financing political campaigns that would sharply cut contributions by special interest groups and the wealthy to congressional and presidential campaigns and would allow some public financing of congressional races. "On this day we seek